

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image-forming apparatus comprising:
at least one latent image holding member on which
an electrostatic latent image is to be formed;
developing devices having toners of different
colors for developing the electrostatic latent image on the
latent image holding member to form a toner image; and
an intermediate transfer medium onto which the thus
formed toner image is to be transferred,
wherein the intermediate transfer medium has a work
function smaller than or equal to the work function of each
of the toners.
2. The image-forming apparatus of claim 1, which
is a cleaner-less apparatus in which toner residues
remaining untransferred on the latent image holding member
are recovered in a development part.
3. The image-forming apparatus of claim 1, wherein
the toners each are a nonmagnetic one-component toner.
4. The image-forming apparatus of claim 1, wherein
the toners are negative electrification type toners and the
developing devices are devices for reversal development.

5. The image-forming apparatus of claim 1, wherein the toners each are a nonmagnetic one-component toner and the amount thereof deposited for development on the latent image holding member is regulated to 0.5 mg/cm^2 or smaller.

6. The image-forming apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a constant-voltage power source serving as a power source for the first transfer of the toner image from the latent image holding member to the intermediate transfer medium; and

a constant-current power source serving as a power source for a second transfer of the toner image from the intermediate transfer medium to a recording medium.

7. The image-forming apparatus of claim 1, wherein the toners contain at least hydrophobic silicon dioxide particles and hydrophobic titanium dioxide as flowability improvers.

8. The image-forming apparatus of claim 7, wherein the toner particles have a roundness represented by the ratio L_0/L_1 of 0.94 or higher, wherein L_1 is the length (μm) of the periphery of a projected image of each toner

particle and L_0 is the length (μm) of the periphery of the complete circle equal in area to the projected image of the toner particle.

9. The image-forming apparatus of claim 7, wherein the toners have a number-average particle diameter of from 4.5 to 9 μm .

10. The image-forming apparatus of claim 7, wherein the toners are formed by polymerizing at least one of a monomer and an oligomer of a polymerizable organic compound in the presence of a colorant.

11. An image-forming apparatus comprising:
at least one latent image holding member on which an electrostatic latent image is to be formed;
developing devices having toners of different colors for developing the electrostatic latent image on the latent image holding member to form a toner image;
an intermediate transfer medium onto which the thus formed toner image is to be transferred; and
a constant-voltage power source for supplying a transfer voltage to perform the toner image transfer onto the intermediate transfer medium,

wherein the intermediate transfer medium contains an ion-conductive substance and has a work function smaller than the work function of each of the toners.

12. The image-forming apparatus of claim 11, wherein the developing devices for respective colors have been disposed so that the toner to be used first for development has the largest work function among all toners and the other toners are used in descending order of work function.

13. The image-forming apparatus of claim 11, wherein the toner to be used for developing the electrostatic latent image for a first color has a work function of 5.6 eV or larger.

14. The image-forming apparatus of claim 11, wherein the ion-conductive intermediate transfer medium is a belt and the toner images transferred to the intermediate transfer medium are then transferred to paper.

15. The image-forming apparatus of claim 11, wherein the toners each are nonmagnetic one-component toner.

16. The image-forming apparatus of claim 11, wherein the amount of each toner conveyed by each developing device is 0.5 mg/cm^2 or smaller.

17. The image-forming apparatus of claim 11, wherein the amount of the toners to be deposited for development on the latent image holding member is 0.55 mg/cm^2 or smaller.

18. The image-forming apparatus of claim 11, wherein each developing device is operated at a higher peripheral speed than the latent image holding member to have a peripheral-speed ratio of the former to the latter of from 1.1 to 2.5, and the direction of rotation of the latent image holding member is the same as that of the developing device.

19. The image-forming apparatus of claim 11, wherein each toner has a roundness represented by the ratio L_0/L_1 of 0.94 or higher, wherein L_1 is the length (μm) of the periphery of a projected image of each toner particle and L_0 is the length (μm) of the periphery of the complete circle equal in area to the projected image of the toner particle.

20. The image-forming apparatus of claim 11, wherein each toner has a number-average particle diameter of from 4.5 to 9 μm .

21. The image-forming apparatus of claim 11, further comprising a constant-current power source serving as a power source for a second transfer of the toner image from the intermediate transfer medium to a recording medium.

22. The image-forming apparatus of claim 11, wherein each of the developing devices for respective colors has been united with the corresponding latent image holding member to constitute a process cartridge, and the process cartridge has been removably mounted in the image-forming apparatus.

23. The image-forming apparatus of claim 11, wherein the toners contain at least hydrophobic silica and hydrophobic titanium dioxide as flowability improvers.